



News Release

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Fine, revocation against Yakima County water system operator upheld

OLYMPIA — Penalties imposed by state health officials last year against a Yakima County water system operator have been upheld by an administrative law judge. The ruling affirms the state Department of Health's actions in revoking Bruce Forenpohar's certification for 12 months and fining him \$8,400.

Forenpohar, a Selah resident, is the former operator of the Hillview Water Association. He repeatedly failed to monitor the water system for potentially harmful bacteria, nitrate, lead, copper, herbicides, pesticides, and other chemicals. He also failed to inform customers about quality of their water, as required by federal and state law.

The Hillview Water Association serves about 30 homes near Selah.

The agency originally fined both Forenpohar and the Hillview Water Association \$12,600. The agency later separated the fine, holding the association accountable for a third of the amount and Forenpohar the rest. The association has paid its negotiated share of the fine.

Forenpohar appealed the fine and revocation. Judge John Kuntz of the Department of Health's Adjudicative Services Unit heard the appeal on November 16, 2009.

Forenpohar may ask for reconsideration. He may also appeal his fine and revocation in superior court.

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